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8-15-03

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: DESHOTEL TITLE: IMPROVED WELDING MACHINE

SERIAL NO. 09/517,258

ART UNIT: 1725

FILING DATE: MARCH 2, 2000

EXAMINER: Z. PITTMAN

DOCKET NO. 9468.001

RECEIVED
AUG 25 2003
TC 1700

REMARKS:

The Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

In one case, the apparatus for continuously welding a joint between a pair of planar work pieces. The apparatus includes a lower support member and an upper support member. Each support member carrying a respective plurality of rollers. In operation, the two work pieces are tack welded together to define the joint and the temporally joined work pieces are then presented to the junction between the rollers. The space between these rollers is chosen so that the work pieces are restrained from out of plane movement but are not nipped so that they can move between the rollers. [Page 21 line 4 to line 10]. In this case, the restraining means cannot apply flattening forces on to the work piece or work pieces since movement of the work piece or work pieces relative to the restraining means must be permitted. Guan et al is using the roller to block out-of-plane movement Guan et al does not apply pressure in this limitation, therefore does not teach applying pressure to the plates. This differs from my claims #9 A welding process comprising the steps of: (d) applying pressure to a surface of said plates with at least one pressure applicator positioned on each side of said weld butt, said pressure applicators configured to extend behind said source of electric current, said pressure applicators configured to apply sufficient pressure to said plates to prevent said seam from being substantially distorted while said welded seam solidifies and (e) moving said plates so that said current source arcs electric current to said plates along said weld butt.

In another case, two plates are placed on top of a welding bed end to end to form a weld butt, then flattening forces on the work pieces on both sides of the weld butt are provided for by two opposing rows of hinged double finger clamping, holding the work pieces firmly against both the central backup insert and the side supporting bars then welding operations are preformed on the weld butt. My invention differs by placing two plates on top of a welding bed end to end to form a weld butt then simply rolling the pressure applicators with the welding apparatus with the pressure applicators extending behind the welding apparatus moving or rolling along the near end of weld butt while

welding operations are in process forming a weld seam to the far end of the weld butt. This is two distinctly different claims:

Guan et al claims (31) Apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the restraining means comprises at least one load member having a pair of fingers, one of which contacts a work piece in the first zone and the other of which restrains the work piece in the third zone.

My claims #1(a) A welding process comprising the steps of (a) providing at least two metal plates having upper and lower surfaces and ends (d) applying pressure to a surface of said plates with at least one pressure applicator positioned on each side of said weld butt, said pressure applicators configured to extend behind said source of electric current, said pressure applicators configured to apply sufficient pressure to said plates to prevent said seam from being substantially distorted while said welded seam solidifies; and (e) moving said current source and said pressure applicators along a path substantially following said weld butt between said plates.

Claims 1-15, 30-43, 63-67, and 69 should be allowable because of the distinctions I have shown above. It is obvious that this is a distinctly different welding process or processes than that of Guan et al that has been cited against me. With regards to claims 1, 9, 30, 38, and 63,

Yes, behind said source of electric current does refer to the same plane relative to the movement of the apparatus or plate movement. EXAMPLE: If the welding machine is moving from left to right, then behind the machine would mean the left side of the machine, if the machine is in a fixed position and the plates move to the machine from the left side to the right side of the machine the right side of the machine would be behind the machine. This invention saves time and effort in the work place by being able to produce large lots of welded seams in a short amount of time and can be applied in small or large areas.

In response to the rejected claims saying "as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention" are moving pressure applicators.



Dear Commissioner

I per say am handling these preceding myself and do not have any skills in the art of drafting up a patent claims and preparing office objections responses. Do you have any suggestions to the wording that I should use if so please call or send to me by mail? I would greatly appreciate any help you could give me. Thanks

Sincerely,

Kent J. Deshotel

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